

LOUISIANA conservationist

november—december, 1970



comments



**Heap on more wood!—the wind is chill;
But let it whistle as it will,
We'll keep our Christmas merry still.**

—Sir Walter Scott

November and December are not only extremely special months for sportsmen, even though they offer the maximum in hunting and fishing opportunity. Almost every form of game is in season, and it is the time of the harvest—the wholesome and logical harvest of wildlife wholly in the bounds of sound wildlife management.

These are also the months when gulf and coastal fishing is at its winter best. Offshore gulf fishing around the countless petroleum platforms of Louisiana is the envy of the angling world. When most of the country is covered with snow and ice, Louisiana fishermen and visiting friends and relatives enjoy many balmy days. Their lines are taut, their reels hum, and the catch is generally more bountiful than non-residents can believe.

In the countless coastal bays, lakes, bayous, and oil company canals, there are speckled trout, redfish, flounders, sheephead and drum by the thousands. Louisiana offers the most satisfying winter fishing in the country. That includes winter bass and crappie fishing.

We are in the midst of what promises to be the most successful deer hunting season in the history

of the state. Hunters who stalk the winter-naked woods, or perch on frosty stands, know that their chances of success are the result of management programs that have, in a little over two decades, made Louisiana one of the most important deer hunting states in the deep South, and far better than many others in the country..

Waterfowlers are enjoying their best season in about 23 years. The increased bag and possession limit, marking a liberalization that had almost been given up in despair, was not the result of political pressures being brought to bear on the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

Instead, they are due in great part to efforts of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission and the State's Congressional Delegation in seeing that facts and not fancies were reviewed in fixing of those seasons.

I sincerely hope that the trend established this year will continue and that logic will prevail. Waterfowl, as well as other forms of wildlife, have no better friends than the sportsmen of Louisiana who ask only for wise utilization of a renewable resource. I am certain that those duck hunters who pole to their blinds in the pre-dawn darkness and hear the sound of vagrant wings overhead share that conviction.

Squirrel, rabbit, dove, quail, woodcock, snipe and rail hunters are also offered a wide variety of outdoor recreation. Just what form of hunting to pursue in the time

allowed is often difficult to decide. The decision is up to the hunter, and must be his, because Louisiana has so much to offer.

That we will have excellent goose-hunting this season is certain; but there is reason for increased alarm at practices that may see greater numbers of snow and blue geese shortstopped on their traditional southward flight to Louisiana. We will need the full support of sportsmen in the year ahead to see that this does not occur, and that the trend is reversed.

There are many problems that will face the Commission in the year ahead. We will meet those problems, both old and new, with determination and vigor.

I mentioned earlier that these are special months for all persons—in all walks of life. There is Thanksgiving, the traditional day when all Americans bask in the warmth of family companionship and express their gratitude for living in a country that despite its adversities internally and internationally still stands as a symbol of progress through determination to build.

Perhaps the most important holiday for all of us is Christmas, deeply etched with religious significance; but also reflecting joy, warmth and fellowship. This is spirit that is reflected not only in the United States but through Christendom.

The members of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission join with me in wishing everyone, everywhere, the warmest of holiday greetings.

LOUISIANA conservationist



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*I give my pledge as an American to
save and faithfully to defend
from waste the natural
resources of my country—its soil
and minerals, its forests, waters
and wildlife.*



The Louisiana Conservationist received two awards for excellence from the International Association of Business Communicators District II at the recent annual conference in Athens, Georgia. It was named Best Overall Magazine and Best Nonprofit Organization's Magazine.

COMMUNICATIONS AWARD 1969 CONSERVATION
The Louisiana Conservationist won the 1969 Award for Conservation Communications, known as the Governor's Award, sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation and the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, in cooperation with the Sears Foundation.



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whispering wings

MC FADDEN DUFFY



There's a thrill to duck hunting in Louisiana unmatched anywhere else in the country. The September teal season only whets anticipation that amounts to a fever pitch just before opening day of the regular duck season. Hunters long for that morning when they can crouch in their blinds in pre-dawn darkness and listen to whispering wings overhead.

The sound of stroking wings above is a haunting one, remembered long after the hunt is over; and recalled from season to season. Like a fleeting melody, the name of which cannot be recalled; those wing beats speak of vagrant wanderings. Waterfowl call a continent home. Their winter visit to Louisi-

ana, and even further south, is only an interlude in their migratory meanderings.

What makes duck hunting so special to Louisiana hunters is that they are waterfowling down where the flyway ends. Ducks from the far North and Canada criss-cross back and forth in the Central and Mississippi Flyways, with millions of feathered nomads gradually being constricted to cylinder bore in Arkansas and then scattered over lush Louisiana.

Into the hundreds of thousands of acres of waving green and gold marshland come many species of waterfowl. There are mallards, gadwall, baldpate, black ducks, wood ducks, green-winged teal,

blue-winged teal, shovelers, pintails, scaup, ringnecks, along with a sprinkling of redheads, canvasbacks and ruddy ducks—all from the far North to spread out across the state and winter with the non-migratory mottled ducks.

There are over 110,000 duck hunters in Louisiana, a fact established from the sales of duck stamps in the state. Duck stamp sales are a good indicator of both hunter interest and the status of waterfowl populations. Duck stamp sales were up in fiscal 1970. In fact, more than 2 million were sold in the United States, the largest number since 1959. This year should set a new record in Louisiana and also a new national record; primarily



because of increased bag limits and less restrictive regulations.

Duck stamp sales peaked in 1955 when nearly 2,400,000 were sold. But sales dropped rapidly to about 1 million during the early 1960's when drought throughout Canadian nesting grounds reduced bag limits and shortened seasons.

As nesting conditions improved, sales climbed again and during the 1968-69 season nearly hit the 2 million mark. Sales were even greater during the 1969-70 season and the outlook is still brighter for fiscal 1970-71.

Waterfowlers throughout the state are generally in agreement that the Commission selected the

best possible season within the framework allowed by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, U. S. Department of Interior.

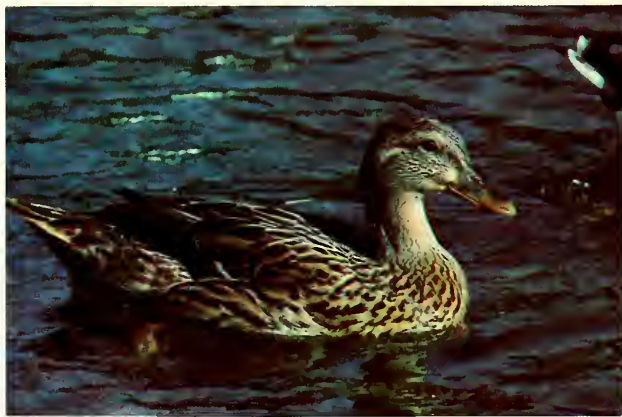
Elimination of the 10 percent penalty for a split season allowed the Commission to set a split season, with the first split running from November 7 through November 29. This provided hunters with an opportunity to gun the first heavy flights of ducks moving into the state.

The second split, running from December 12 through January 12, offers hunters an excellent opportunity to hunt the later flights of ducks, and during a period when Louisiana will be wintering the

greatest number of ducks in more than two decades.

The bag limit of six ducks daily, with 12 ducks in possession, plus a bonus on scaup in that area south of the intracoastal waterway from the Texas line to Morgan City, south of U. S. Highway 90 from Morgan City to U. S. Highway 61, northeast of U. S. Highway 61 from New Orleans to LaPlace, east of U. S. Highway 51 from LaPlace to Hammond, and south of U. S. Highway 190 from Hammond to the Mississippi line, marked the most liberal season in more than two decades.

This rekindled interest in duck hunting. Many sportsmen across the country who had turned to other



forms of hunting began preparing for the duck season, as did Louisiana hunters. On the surface, this appears that waterfowlers became more interested because they could take more ducks, more than they have been allowed to take in over two decades.

Aside from the additional recreational opportunity that the current waterfowl season will provide hunters, there are many benefits that will accrue to the entire waterfowl resource, particularly in Louisiana. During the lean years when hunting seasons were drastically curtailed and restricted, many hunting clubs and large owners of marshlands were reluctant to continue marsh

management programs. Building of levees and dams is expensive and some projects at a private level were abandoned. Others were held in abeyance until it became apparent that waterfowl populations had improved and conditions were on the mend.

The increased bag limit, elimination of the 10 percent penalty when a split season is selected, and the bonus on scaup, all have contributed greatly to a general feeling that waterfowl are now being managed as a renewable resource. As long as this sentiment continues to prevail, it is certain that private management practices in the marshlands will be accelerated.

It is possible that there will be years ahead when duck production is not on the high level that it has been for the past several years. What Louisiana hunters have pleaded for since conditions in the nesting grounds improved and duck populations soared upward is liberalization when conditions warrant it. At no time have they ever wanted any season that would not be in the best interest of the waterfowl resource.

The waterfowl resource is a renewable one and through wise management hunters for generations to come will be able to thrill to the sound of whispering wings in a pre-dawn sky over a duck blind.



winter wiers



PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOE PALERMO

BY LIONEL W. TREADAWAY, JR.

As the cold breath of winter blows its way across the Louisiana bayous and marshes, fishermen can be seen taking to the weirs in greater numbers.

Colder weather has signaled the beginning of the hunting season and has shown a lessening in the activity of fishermen in some parts of the state.

The Louisiana angler has now come to realize that the colder weather brought by winter has little effect on the fishing scene. The only changes that do occur are in angling techniques and the species of available fish, not in their quality nor in their quantity.

Somewhat unique to our meandering bayous and picturesque lagoons are the weirs or water control structures which offer the angler an excellent opportunity to catch his fill of redfish, flounder, drum, speckled trout, and sheephead.

The weir was introduced to Louisiana tidal marshes prior to 1958, primarily to promote the interests of waterfowl management. It is used as a management technique in the tidal marshes and is particularly valuable in the production of aquatic vegetation in marsh ponds and lakes.

Its objectives are to increase the production of waterfowl food plants such as widgeon grass and sago pondweeds which in turn makes the area more attractive to migratory water fowl.

This process can be best accomplished by an overall habitat improvement, not only by increased food production but also by making the food more available and the creation of a more suitable balance between marsh areas and open water.

The structures are placed in the drainage systems of a particular area and set at an elevation of approximately six inches below the level of the surrounding marsh, which permits water to move in and out of the drainage systems over





the structures.

The actual purpose behind the use of weirs is to maintain a minimum water level while at the same time permitting the flow of tidewater back and forth across the structures.

Water levels behind a weir can recede to a fixed level only. This fixed level in turn prohibits excessive drainage of the marsh during low tides. It also helps to reduce the rate of flow through the channel and holds a basin of water behind the structure which serves as a mixing bowl during extreme high and low water conditions.

The three types of weirs in use today are built of either wood, steel or aluminum with each having its own certain advantages. It is generally accepted to build the structure three times deeper than the depth of the bayou. If for instance the bayou is ten feet deep, construction pilings would have to be thirty feet in length with two-thirds of this length being sunk into the floor of the bayou.

During the warmer months small fish and shrimp migrate into and live in the marshes behind the weirs. At the onset of winter they begin to seek the warmer waters of the Gulf of Mexico. They must pass over the weirs in their search for this warmer water and in so doing attract the attention of larger fish such as drum, sheepshead, flounder, redfish and speckled trout.

The type of tackle used in fishing the weirs is for the most part varied with the final selection left up to the discretion of the angler. Light tackle is the most commonly accepted with



8 to 16 pound test line most readily used. Any type rod and reel is acceptable with the rule being "The lighter the tackle, the better the fight."

Shad rigs with or without shrimp, shrimp tails, and Sidewinders and other artificial baits used when weir fishing.

Corks are commonly employed for this type of fishing and it seems best to fish from two to three feet deep when in search of speckled trout, while bottom fishing with a sinker is usually the rule for redfish, drum, flounder, and sheepshead. Weirs can be fished from the inside or the outside.

According to the more experienced anglers the best fishing for rat red and speckled trout, is on the outside during a falling tide. Water inside of the weir produces an abundance of sunfish and bass which seem to prefer the fresher waters of the marsh. It is also not uncommon to catch large flounders on either side under normal conditions.

The Refuge Division of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission is presently maintaining more than 60 weirs located in Rockefeller, Marsh Island, Pass A Loutre, Salvador, Pointe Au Chien and State Wildlife Refuge. In addition to these the Fish and Game Division maintains in excess of 75 weirs located in the Wisner and Biloxi Wildlife Management Areas. There are also many privately owned weirs maintained by individual companies throughout the state, all of which offer excellent opportunities to anglers.





deer management pays big dividends

By DENNIE



reported kill of 59,926. Breaking down the figures on the 1970-71 season will give us an even better picture of the deer hunting scene. Gun hunters made up the bulk of those taking to the woods with 140,996 and the bow hunter accounting for the remaining 10,980. Those hunters in search of the record buck led the list in hunter success with 86 percent of the deer being killed. Buying a gun, big game tags, and heading for the woods does not mean that you will fill out those tags. Only 23 percent of the total were successful. This can be broken down into the nitty gritty facts that 14.9 percent killed one deer, 5.4 percent two, 1.9 percent three, and then into the very elite category of those who killed four and they accounted for .8 percent while that select few that didn't have any of their five tags left over to tear up after the season, tallied in at .9 percent.

Why are some hunters so successful in their efforts and others not? Well there are a number of reasons for this, but it all breaks down to the fact that the successful hunter takes his fun very seriously and knows his quarry well. With information about the habits of the whitetail he is able to be in the right spot and do the right things that all spell success. Whitetail deer are wary animals and must depend on their sense of sight, smell and hearing if they are to make it through the hunting season.

They depend on their sense of smell more than any other of their faculties and nature has done a fantastic job in equipping them with the best "sniffer" on the market. Their sense of hearing also leaves little to be desired and they are very quick to detect not only loud noises but noises that don't belong in the woods, such as the sound of a hunting jacket brushing against the limb of a bush or the sound of metal on metal as a ring might make against a gun barrel or the closing of the breech on a rifle.

Their vision is their shortcoming as they are unable to detect colors; only shades of gray. I should qualify that statement by saying that their vision is poor on stationary objects—remain still and you can be a winner. Move around continually on a deer stand and you might as well have stayed home to watch television or whatever you do best. That is the key . . . learn to be still!

When deer detect the slightest unusual sound, odor or movement, they will usually be on their way and not yours. They have fantastic speed and can do some leaping that would put Superman to shame. But quite often they will prefer to hide rather than flee and they can flatten out on the ground and conceal themselves in some brush so small that "Brrer Rabbit" wouldn't feel safe.

If a man can remember these few things the rest should come with experience unless he goes to the woods just to catch up on his sleep.

Hunting deer in Louisiana is a little different than in most states.

Necessity has developed the two party system: "Them that hunts with dogs and them that don't". Your choice will depend a great deal upon the terrain in which you hunt, or if you just enjoy the sound of good dogs echoing through the deep woods.

Another factor to contend with is that hunting with dogs is not allowed in some areas of the state so consult the hunting regulations before you open the gate on that dog trailer.

When hunting with dogs the hunters are placed in strategic locations in the woods or swamps as to form a sort of barracade. Most of the time the hunters will equip themselves with shotguns using buckshot or rifled slugs as a safety precaution.

It is always a good piece of insurance to know where the standers are on either side of you and to try and keep a tree between them and yourself.

But most important to remember is to stay on the stand that you are placed on and don't—I repeat don't move around. You could end as a statistic earlier than you anticipated. If you take your time and pick yourself a comfortable spot in the woods it will make your wait a great deal easier.

If you find that you have a great deal of difficulty remaining still then you have two choices. First you can get yourself a tree stand, which will not only remove you from the deer's normal range of vision but will increase yours a great deal and put you at a very distinct advantage. Remember it is against the law to construct tree stands on Game Management areas. But you can climb a tree. Secondly, if you like to move around a great deal and don't like to climb trees or ladders then

The rewards of good game management couldn't be more evident than in the number of deer harvested by the Louisiana deer hunters annually. Twenty years ago eighty percent of the state was closed to deer hunting and only the meager remaining twenty percent was open.

The Commission's deer restocking program began in 1949 and in the years since that date it is estimated that over 4,000 wild trapped deer had been released. History will testify to the fact that almost all of the deer hunting done in our state was done in the hardwood bottomlands of Madison, Concordia, and Tensas parishes or in deep swamps of the Atchafalaya Basin.

We can truly be cognizant of the way deer hunting has grown in leaps and bounds in proportion to the increase of the huntable herds, when we examine the sale of big game tags. In the first year that the big game tag was introduced in 1960-61, the sales were 56,462 and the reported kill was 5,525 deer. Sales increased this past season, just ten years later, to the all time high of 141,949 and a



I suggest you contact the nearest dancing school and trade your gun in on some dancing lessons.

Try and get settled as soon as possible as the other hunters moving to their stand could make the deer begin to move around and possibly in your direction.

Once all of the hunters are in position the dogs will be turned loose in such a manner that the men handling the dogs will try and push whatever deer, if any, in the direction of the standers. But don't wait until the dogs are within good hearing range to get ready. Be ready as soon as you get into the woods.

Advocates of "still" hunting claim that is the only true way to hunt. Pitting their savvy against that of the wild animal without any outside help. There is a great deal of satisfaction to be garnered from being able to read the deer "signs" or making advance trips into the woods to find

heavily used deer trails, especially where they converge. Then being able to use these bits of information plus a great deal of patience. Try to be in the right spot when it counts. Some other advantages to also consider is that the venison will taste a great deal better because the deer hasn't been running and that there will be more of it to taste, as you don't have to divide it up with the other hunters in your party as is the custom when hunting with dogs. Very rarely does one hear a deer moving through the woods unless they are really in a panic. You must learn to "look" for deer. By that I mean look for pieces of deer; a twitching ear in the brush, the patch of brown that doesn't belong there. Don't be prepared to see him stroll out in the clearing and strike a majestic pose like some painting on a feed store catalog. It does happen, but if that's what you're going to look for you had better bring along a

magazine to pass the time.

Most "still" hunters I know prefer to hunt with a rifle and the one I have seen them carry most often is the lever action 30-30.

Your choice of rifles can be either lever action, semi-automatic, pump or the time honored bolt action.

Owners of the more expensive rifles lean toward the lever action claiming that it is more accurate and the chances of mechanical failure are far less than in the other models. It probably is more reliable than the others.

My feelings are, knowing that you will not be able to get off a second shot as rapidly as in using an automatic weapon the shooter becomes more careful in the execution of that all important first shot.

Someone with an automatic may have a tendency to rely more on the amount of ammo he uses than how he uses it. So believe that it could be a case of the rifle making the

shooter more careful, hence accurate.

Most deer hunters in Louisiana seldom get to shoot their rifles often. Except when they "Zero" it in, and they had better do that every year, and then make the hunt. Consequently they are not expert marksmen and need all the help they can get. So my vote goes to anyone of the other three rifles. Personally I own a semi-automatic .308 with a 3-9 variable scope. I realized very quickly that I was overscoped and should have gone for a 2-4 or 2-6 and no more. A scope is a great asset even if it does take a little practice to master.

With a scope your eye need only line up with one thing or plane, with the rear of the scope, whereas with the open or peep sight you line up two. I also personally prefer a "flip" mount that allows me to flip my scope out of the way if the brush is too dense to use it.

There are a wide variety of calibers to choose from but the most popular here is .243, .244, .250-3000, 30-30, .308, .257 Roberts, .264 magnum, .270, .280, 300 Savage, 30-06 and .348.

Keeping most of these points in mind I hope they will make your next venture more successful. It also takes a little bit of luck and as of this date I haven't been able to find out where you can buy that in any store, . . .



Commission purchases land on December 7

On December 7 the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission purchased 12,978 acres of land located in the extreme lower part of Concordia Parish, from the Jay-Kay Corporation, to be developed into a permanent wildlife management area for conservation purposes and future public hunting and fishing.

The Act of Sale took place in the office of Governor John J. McKeithen, whose signature formally conveyed the land to the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission.

Sale price for the land was approximately \$75.00 an acre, or \$973,399.50. Half of the purchase price will be refunded to the state by the Federal Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. Net costs to the state for the 12,978 acre tract will be \$487,500 or \$37.50 an acre.

The tract of land is located about 51 miles south of Vidalia and is almost adjacent to the Grassy Lake and Red River Wildlife Management areas.

It is occupied by a hardwood forest and offers excellent deer, squirrel and rabbit hunting. Some areas of the tract will be utilized for waterfowl hunting and watered areas offer excellent bass, crappie and bream fishing.

Bottomland hardwoods in Northeast Louisiana are being cleared at a rate in excess of 100,000 acres per year.

It has been estimated that by 1985 the bottomland hardwoods will, for all practical purposes, have been cleared.

Only through actual land purchase has the Commission been able to assure that a few remnant stands of bottomland hardwoods will be preserved for the future.

A detailed still life photograph featuring a variety of fresh ingredients. In the foreground, several lemons are scattered on a wooden cutting board, some whole and some sliced. A large onion sits to the left, and another is partially visible in the center. Behind the lemons, a thick, textured log of wood lies horizontally. In the background, a bunch of green celery stalks with leafy tops is prominent. To the right, a red glass bottle stands upright. A woven basket is partially visible, containing more produce. The entire scene is set against a dark, textured background of dried grass or twigs. Overlaid on the center of the image is the text 'From Lois de Latour's Kitchen... tal' in a white, elegant serif font.

From
Lois de
Latour's
Kitchen... tal



your pick & mes amis.

TURTLE SOUP

- 3 lbs. turtle meat boned and cut in 1 inch cubes
- 1 cup shortening—salad oil or Crisco—not olive oil
- 1 cup diced onions
- 1 cup diced celery
- 6 cloves garlic—chopped
- 1 cup flour
- 16 oz. can tomato sauce
- 2 qts. water
- 1/4 cup B.V. (beef extract)
- 2 teaspoons celery salt
- 4 bay leaves
- 2 lemons cut in half
- 1 teaspoon thyme
- 1/2 cup chopped parsley
- Salt and lemon pepper to taste
- Garnish

DIRECTIONS: Saute turtle in shortening until very brown and set aside. Brown flour (add more if needed). When brown add onion, celery and garlic and cook 10 minutes. Add tomato sauce, water, B.V. and then meat and all other ingredients, except garnish. Simmer about two hours or until meat is very tender. Garnish with lemon and chopped egg and add sherry to each plate before serving. This makes one gallon and freezes well.

OYSTER SOUP

- 5 doz. oysters (medium size) strain and save liquid
- 1 heaping cooking spoon of flour
- 2 bunches of small shallots
- 1/2 cup chopped parsley, fine
- 3 or 4 cloves of garlic
- 1 generous pinch of thyme
- 2 bay leaves
- 3/4 cup vegetable oil
- 1 stick of margarine
- Milk (optional); chop all seasonings fine.

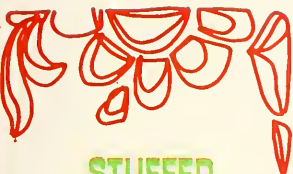
DIRECTIONS: Heat oil and margarine—add flour—cook flour slowly until gold color, add all other ingredients and simmer, stirring often, do not brown, add oyster liquid, (do not allow sediment in bottom of bowl to go into pot); add water if needed. Cook slowly for approximately 1/2 or 3/4 hour. While this is cooking examine each oyster for little gritty pieces of shell that sometime stick to the oysters when they are shucked. Oysters must be completely clean. Add oysters to broth and bring to boil for about 10 minutes, oysters should be cooked then. Some folks add a little milk to soup before serving—this is optional.

OYSTER PATTIE FILLING

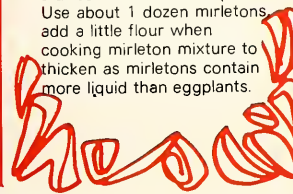
(12—pattie shells for this recipe)

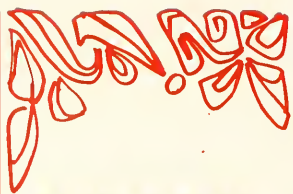
- 6 doz. oysters strained—save liquid
- 2 bunches shallots
- 1/2 cup parsley
- 4 cloves garlic
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 2 cups of flour
- 1 large can mushrooms (sliced)
- 1/2 teaspoon thyme
- 2-3 bay leaves
- 1/2 teaspoon rosemary
- 1 cup vegetable oil—more if needed
- 1 stick margarine

DIRECTIONS: Cook flour in oil and margarine until golden brown, add all seasoning (chopped fine) and cook slowly until seasoning is well cooked—add oyster water—mushrooms and mushroom liquid—cook slowly about 45 minutes. This mixture should be thick as oysters (when added) will thin sauce more—add oysters and bring to boil, cook until oysters are curled, this takes about 10 minutes after bringing sauce to boiling point. Cut the holes in pattie shells and place tops on each pattie—heat shells on cookie sheet in hot oven—when hot remove from oven—fill pattie shells with sauce and about 6 oysters each on individual serving plates—serve immediately.



STUFFED EGGPLANT

- 3 large eggplants
 - 3 bunches small shallots
(use part of green also)
 - 1/2 cup parsley
 - 1 cup celery chopped
 - 6 cloves of garlic
 - Generous pinch of thyme
 - 2 or 3 bay leaves
 - 2 lbs. of raw shrimp
(cleaned, deveined and
chopped)
 - 2 cups chopped lean ham
(Bread crumbs; vegetable
oil; margarine; three eggs.)
- DIRECTIONS: Boil eggplants,
when cooked set aside in
large pan to cool—scoop out
into large bowl, chop shallots,
parsley and garlic very fine.
Use deep iron pot, add one
stick of margarine and 3/4
cup vegetable oil, simmer
shallots, parsley, garlic, ham
and bay leaves; add shrimp
and ham and cook for about
10 minutes, add all
ingredients from iron pot to
large bowl with eggplant and
mix thoroughly together.
Return this mixture to iron
pot and cook slowly for about
1 1/2 hour; remove from fire
and place dressing into bowl,
let cool slightly, then add 3
beaten eggs, and bread
crumbs—enough to absorb
moisture—place in baking
dish, either in eggplant shells
or without shells—top with
bread crumbs and dots of
margarine. Bake for about
1 1/2 hour before serving.
Note: Mirlitons can be
stuffed with above recipe.
Use about 1 dozen mirlitons
add a little flour when
cooking mirliton mixture to
thicken as mirlitons contain
more liquid than eggplants.
- 



BAKED SHRIMP

- 10 lbs. of headless shrimp
 - 6 to 8 bunches of shallots
(small shallots)
 - 1 celery (remove outer
stalks and cut part of
top off)
 - 1 bunch parsley
 - 2 cloves of garlic
 - 1 qt. olive oil
 - 4 sticks margarine
 - 6 lemons
- Oregano to taste; dash of
wine vinegar, optional.
- DIRECTIONS: Place shrimp
into 2 or 3 baking pans and
place sliced lemons on top of
shrimp—2 lemons per pan;
chop the shallots; celery;
parsley and garlic very fine.
In large iron pot add 1 cup of
olive oil; 1 stick of margarine
and cook shallots, celery,
parsley and garlic until soft.
Pour this mixture in equal
amounts to each pan of
shrimp, sprinkle a little
oregano over shrimp—
(sprinkle a few drops of wine
vinegar if desired). Pour 1
cup of olive oil to each pan
and 1 stick of margarine to
each pan. Bake in 375°
oven, stirring now and then
for about 45 minutes to one
hour. Test one or two shrimp
after 45 minutes. Serve this
in soup plate with hot french
bread—bread is dunked into
sauce.



VEAL POCKET

Stuff pocket with oyster
dressing recipe and either
sew pocket closed or secure
with skewers and cord, as we
do with the turkey cavity;
cook as you would a roast in
oven in large baking pan at
375° for about 2 hours—
cool slightly before slicing—
serve thick slice per person—
it's delicious served with
fresh boiled rice or mashed
potatoes.



FRIED SHRIMP

Clean and devein five pounds of shrimp; place shrimp in stainless steel bowl; add 2 beaten eggs and evaporated milk—mix well—cover and place in refrigerator overnight. Dip shrimp into flour and cook in deep hot fat for a few minutes only—do not over crowd shrimp. Shrimp should be thoroughly chilled before frying.

OYSTER TOPPING FOR BAKING OYSTERS

(Oysters on 1/2 shell)

- 4 doz. whole oysters.
- 1 lb. butter
- 4 bunches of shallots chopped fine
- 1-1/2 cup of grated Italian cheese
- 1 can of mushrooms chopped fine
- 1/2 bunch of parsley
- 1 celery heart both chopped fine
- 3 doz. oysters chopped
- 1 cup ham, chopped fine
- 1 cup of milk
- 4 teaspoonsful of flour
- Worcestershire sauce to taste
- Salt and pepper to taste

DIRECTIONS: Fry onions in butter; celery; mushrooms; then ham; then oysters (all ingredients should be chopped very fine; this is very important.) Add milk and flour (separately). Cook over a slow fire until sauce thickens, remove from heat and set aside. Heat oyster shells in oven, until they become very hot, then put lemon juice and butter in the shells and place oysters in shells and top it with oyster dressing, place in oven and bake until slightly brown.

COURTBOUILLON

- 1 or 2 large redfish (cut into serving pieces)
- 1-1/2 cup flour
- 3 bunches shallots (small shallots)—chopped.
- 4 or 5 cloves garlic—chopped
- 1 cup celery—chopped
- 1/2 to 3/4 cup parsley—chopped
- 2 or 3 bay leaf
- Generous pinch thyme
- Generous pinch rosemary
- 2 lemons—cut in half (remove seeds)
- 1 16 oz. can tomatoes or sauce
- 3/4 cup vegetable oil
- 1 stick margarine
- 4 doz. oysters (strain—set aside—save water)
- 3 lbs. shrimp (clean and devein)

Prepare roux (meaning browned flour in vegetable oil and margarine.) Add all ingredients except parsley and lemons and tomatoes. Cook until soft; add tomatoes, oyster water (add more water if needed), but keep sauce thick. Add lemons and parsley—cook for about 1 hour. (Be sure to examine oysters for gritty pieces before adding). Place fish in deep open baking pan with slice of lemon on each piece. Salt and pepper fish and pour a little melted margarine over fish, and bake in 350° oven. When fish begins to cook add oysters and shrimp to sauce and pour sauce into pan of fish and bake until fish is cooked. Approximately 45 min. to 1 hour.

ROAST PHEASANT

Handle just as you would a chicken—but stuff with a fairly wet mixture of equal parts of cabbage and onion, bread crumbs, mixed with beaten egg and milk, as the meat is somewhat dry. Bacon slices (fat ones) may also be used to cover the bird.



SHRIMP REMOULADE

Boil five pounds of shrimp with shrimp boil; clean and set aside. Seasoning: 2 cups chopped celery (fine); 1 cup of parsley; two heads of lettuce; 1 or 2 white onions; 1 small jar of creole mustard. Olive oil. Paprika to color. DIRECTIONS: Chop all seasoning very fine; mix to desired consistency by adding olive oil last.

OYSTER-SHRIMP TURKEY DRESSING

- 3 pounds shrimp*
- 10 doz. oysters
- 1 bunch celery
- 1 bunch shallots
- 1 bunch parsley
- 3 cloves garlic
- 6 sprigs thyme or one powdered thyme
- 3 bay leaves
- 5 large cans mushrooms, sliced or pieces (use water of mushrooms)
- 5 cups stale French bread salt; pepper
- 3 eggs (add in after stuffing has been sauteed or cooked)

DIRECTIONS: Saute bayleaf, thyme, celery, shallots (do not brown). Add garlic towards end of time to sauteed celery and shallots. Add this to large bowl of French bread that has been soaked in water and squeezed. Add oysters (chopped or whole) mushrooms and water (chopped or as is), shrimp chopped, parsley, salt, pepper. Mix very well. Place mixture in large skillet (use oil or stick of margarine or butter) and cook slowly (turning to avoid sticking) for about 1/2 hour or more —remove from heat, cool slightly, add 3 beaten eggs and mix well.

*Devein and boil shrimp in crab boil mixture.



When a woodcock is flushed and comes rocketing up from its daytime perch aside a hummock shaded by an evergreen bush or other protective shrubbery a hunter is looking at rocketing royalty. Among upland game birds the woodcock is considered a prince. This is true not only in the United States but equally so in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Canada, and throughout most of Europe.

Louisiana hunters have a virtual monopoly on woodcock because it is estimated that approximately 80 per cent of the Continental population of these nocturnal game birds winter in Louisiana during the open season, offering woodcock hunting that is the envy of hunters throughout those parts of the world where woodcock are found.

Adding to the Louisiana woodcock hunter's delight is the fact that the birds are further concentrated in the

ROCKETING FADDEN DUFFY ROYALTY

Florida parishes and in the Atchafalaya basin. It is a woodcock wonderland and the season is a good one.

Because of the split season this year, woodcock gunners had a brief four day sample of this upland gunning during the Thanksgiving holidays. The main season opened December 9 and will extend through February 7, with a daily bag limit of five and a possession limit of 10.

They are best hunted with a dog, but it is not difficult for a hunter to walk up a limit of woodcock, provided he is able to spot the sort of cover that woodcock utilize during daylight hours when they are not feeding. This may seem like a tall order but once a hunter has discovered likely woodcock terrain, it stands out plainly.

Learning to read woodcock sign is a great help in quickly determining an area of likely cover harboring woodcock. Because the woodcock's diet consists primarily of earthworms, areas where woodcock have been feeding are studded with probe holes. Woodcock search for worms with their sensitive bills which are unique in that the top portion is flexible, enabling a woodcock to open the tip of its bill and grasp a worm even with its bill buried approximately two inches in the ground.

Woodcock feed in open fields and pastures for the most part but telltale probing holes can be spotted in moist stump holes and other similar areas where earthworms might be found. These holes in the earth left by probing woodcock are not difficult to spot, nor are they hard to describe.

Try to visualize an area of earth that has been splattered by a load of No. 4 shot from a considerable distance up in the air. The loosely scattered holes in the ground would resemble those made by woodcock.

Because woodcock feed only at night, they are rarely seen in flight during the daylight hours; however, they are frequently observed late in the afternoon as they are flying from the cover where they have been loafing all day to the fields where they will feed.

In searching out an area for possible woodcock shooting potential hunters should always keep glancing at the

ground around the base of small evergreens, along the edges of old logs, and in likely places where woodcock may have been settled. Woodcock droppings are easy to spot, are chalky white, and are about the size of a half dollar. When these are evident, it is almost a certainty that woodcock are in the area. They will move around somewhat during the daytime but seldom more than 15 or 20 yards.

Although woodcock are plentiful in Louisiana the birds are solitary by nature and it is rare that two will be flushed from any one spot. When flushed, a woodcock will rocket upward to clear the understory cover. There is a momentary pause and then it will fly about a hundred yards and settle down again.

Many hunters have added to the game in their hunting coat pockets by watching the flight of the bird and rocketing it down. In this way the same bird may be flushed a second time, and bagged.

Shooting woodcock in thick cover often calls for snap shooting. Little time can be wasted in getting on the bird and touching off a load of either No. 8 or No. 9 shot. Most woodcock hunters prefer a shotgun with improved cylinder boring. Skeeet guns make excellent woodcock guns because it takes only a few pellets to put one of these birds down. If hit at all the bird will not fly again.

Woodcock are ideally camouflaged by the color of their plumage which is a dead-leaf cinnamon hue. Hunters who are working woodcock cover without a dog should mark the fall of their birds carefully. This will be of great assistance in retrieving them.

Many woodcock are bagged each year by quail hunters. Most dogs trained to point quail will also point woodcock. Hunters working areas where both species of upland game birds are found often return with a woodcock or two, along with their quail.

When it comes to woodcock dogs, the pointing breeds will readily point them but many of these dogs will not retrieve woodcock. This is particularly true of pointers and setters. Spaniels on the other hand are easily trained to be good woodcock dogs, and most will readily retrieve the birds. The American spaniel, a breed developed in this country, is ideally suited for woodcock hunting. They are relatively small dogs with plenty of stamina and not shy when it comes to splashing through some watery spots which are usually found in good woodcock cover. Due to the dense cover that the dogs have to work in hunters have found it necessary to attach a small bell on them in order to keep track of their movement.

Once the flights of woodcock settle in Louisiana, the birds do not shift around much, other than to and from the fields where they feed. They prefer areas adjacent to moist, loamy soil and can nearly always be found in suitable cover in the vicinity of a recent burn. Areas where the grass has been burned off make it easy for woodcock to feed. A ready source of earth worms is necessary to hold woodcock.

Each year finds more and more Louisiana hunters turning to woodcock as an additional source of outdoor recreation, particularly after the waterfowl and deer seasons are over. It is relatively easy hunting, when compared to quail hunting. The most important thing is being able to locate the type of woodcock cover preferred by the birds.

It takes only one successful hunt to learn this basic lesson in woodcock hunting. Why not give it a try. Those who have are now dedicated woodcock hunters and have a special fondness for this plentiful upland game bird that can best be described as rocketing royalty.



fur and wildlife festival

BY LIONEL W. TREADAWAY, JR.

America is a land of festivals and Louisiana has a generous share of them. Some states focus attention on outstanding crops for which Louisiana is properly noted around the country. Some of Louisiana's festivals are unique in the country. One of these is the crawfish festival at Breaux Bridge. Still others reflect on Louisiana's colorful and historic past.

The time is fast approaching when Louisiana stages one of its most interesting and unusual festivals, one that is singular in that there is nothing similar in the United States.

It is the Fifteenth Annual Fur and Wildlife Festival, sponsored by the community of Cameron in southwest Louisiana. It is scheduled for January 8-9, and preparations for the festival have been underway for several months.

As is true of most festivals there are activities that appeal to both old and young alike, either as participants or spectators. These will begin on Friday afternoon, January 8, with the State 4-H Fur Judging. This event will be held at Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge near Grand Chenier. In this particular event trophies are awarded each year to first, second and third place winners. The contest is unusual in that selected skins are numbered and placed on a table.

These furs have previously been graded as to density, color, size, pelting, and primeness, by a committee of fur buyers.

Each participating parish sends one youthful representative chosen from that parish's 4-H



Clubs. The boys then judge the pelts using the same system as the expert fur committee. The boy whose score is closest to that of the committee is named winner. Those placing second and third are also selected by the judges.

One contest that takes place during the festival always seems to draw the largest group of onlookers. It is the muskrat and nutria skinning contest and is actually six contests in one. There is a senior, junior and woman's category in both the muskrat and nutria skinning competition.

Skinning out furbearers is a chore that all trappers must face in following a traditional occupation of the Louisiana marshes—that of trapping. Judges with stop watches supervise this event and sometimes it is a mere second that separates the trophy winner from the other contestants.

Southwest Louisiana is perhaps the state's most productive duck and goose hunting area, and some of the finest calling can be heard in both the junior and senior duck and goose calling contests. In that part of the country youngsters are introduced to duck and goose hunting as soon as they are able to hold a shotgun.

The trap setting contest is one of the highlights of the festival. It calls for only the fastest and most agile to enter—trappers who not only make their living collecting furs but who are also experts at the game. In this unusual competition each entrant must set twelve traps in hardly less than a minute. It calls for skill and care, as well as speed.

The springs on the traps are powerful and a false move could result in a mangled finger. Anyone who fancies himself a dead shot may enter the archery or trap shooting contests. Trophies are given to the parish and state winners of both events. Recently there has been created a women's division of the trap shooting event, in which the ladies pit their marksmanship against one another for one of the three trophies.

Saturday afternoon in Cameron sees a parade of floats down Main Street. The floats are constructed by various groups, civic clubs and businesses in the area. They all follow the central theme of the festival. Cash prizes totaling \$500 are awarded for the most beautiful and the most original floats in the senior and junior divisions, as well as trophies for the best commercial floats.

Everyone including the dogs have their day at the Annual Fur and Wildlife Festival. Anyone so desiring may enter their dog in the Retriever Field Trials which are held on Saturday afternoon. Owners of the three most proficient retrievers may claim their trophies from the judges booth.

For the person with more artistic tastes there are essay, poster, and art contests. The essay contest is open to all school children of Cameron Parish. Each student wishing to enter must submit a 500 word essay which is judged by the English Department of the Cameron Parish Schools.

The art contest open to all residents of Cameron Parish, has two major divisions; painting and drawing, oils and watercolors are accepted for the painting category, while pencil, ink, charcoal, and pastels may be submitted under drawings.

Persons attending the festival will be interested in seeing the recently instituted antique showing. Historical objects and family heirlooms have been loaned for the purpose of making a most enjoyable display. Many old historical photographs, depicting life as it was in the early days of Cameron Parish



may also be viewed at the antique show.

Rounding out the many events of the festival is the selection and coronation of a Fur and Wildlife Festival Queen and her court. In this event the maid from each participating parish receives a fur stole. The girl chosen queen, in addition wins a trip to the National Outdoor Show, held in Cambridge, Maryland. The perfect end to an exciting weekend is the Queen's Ball held on Saturday night.



Aix sponsa

WOOD DUCK

By Charles R. Shaw

Certainly the most colorful of the American ducks and possibly the most beautiful bird in Louisiana, the Wood Duck is worthy of praise both from the duck hunter and the bird watcher. The common name refers to its habit of nesting and living in wooded areas while the scientific name is supposed to mean "waterfowl in wedding raiment."

Dr. George M. Sutton relates that there is an old Indian legend which tells that a little gray duck, searching for happiness, swam into the end of the rainbow and came out the brilliantly colorful bird which we know as the Wood Duck.

Both male and female have crests, although it is not quite as large in the drab colored female. The male has the head and crest colored a glossy green with violet and blue iridescent reflections with narrow white stripes and a white throat and belly. The back is similar in coloration to the head and the breast chestnut spotted with white. There is also a chestnut area at either side of the base of the longish tail, and a white bar in front of the wings on each side. The female has a conspicuous white eye-ring which with the crest and long tail make recognition easy. The immatures and males in eclipse plumage resemble the female in appearance.

It's preferred nesting site is a natural cavity in a tree close to the water, an abandoned wood pecker hole or squirrel den but when the necessity arises it will accept a nest box from man as a suitable substitute. Since the tremendous land clearing of bottomland hardwood areas, amounting to hundreds of thousands of acres, is in full swing, nesting boxes may become a more important factor in the preservation of the "Woody". Interest in this phase of conservation has become so widespread that one man in the north has set up a business of producing an excellent nesting box of plastic foam at a reasonable price.

The Wood Duck was one of the earlier species to show a marked decline in numbers and was placed under complete protection from 1918 to 1941 when it was possible to again utilize it in limited numbers. Now the main threat is not gunning pressure from man but rather the destruction of habitat by draining the lowlands, clearing for agricultural purposes, or for subdivisions, manufacturing sites, and roads. Even where the land is not cleared, the modern timber operations may eliminate nesting trees by the removal of hardwoods.

After selecting a nesting site, which may be actually as far as a quarter of a mile from water, the female lays a clutch of 10 to 15 white eggs. Although the cavity may be as high as 50 feet (10 to 40 is usual range) the young when hatched climb to the entrance and bail out without hesitation, landing on the water or on the ground with no noticeable injury. One film taken of this action shows the little fellows actually bouncing when they hit, but getting up and going to the hen without hesitation. The mother leads her brood to the water if the nesting site is on dry land and the downy young make themselves quite at home, feeding on spiders and other small insects and aquatic life.

The primary predator of the Wood Duck in our area has proven to be the gray rat snake, sometimes called a chicken snake. This creature seems to search out the nests and will stay with it until he has devoured the whole clutch. Raccoons sometimes pilfer the nests also but are not usually considered to be a controlling factor in holding down the population. Of course, when the downy young are on the water they are susceptible to predation by bass or garfish, snapping turtles and alligators.

As they grow rapidly the young Wood Ducks take on the feeding habits of their parents and eat all kinds of seeds and particularly acorns when available. Small pecans are also favored and the birds can even utilize the hard shelled bitter pecans found in the bottomlands of Louisiana.

The habit of congregating in large numbers in Wood Duck roosts at evening has enabled the outlaw hunter to kill large numbers of these birds, but increased enforcement effort is reducing this as time goes on, and Woody is widespread and increasing in importance both to the duck hunter and the bird watcher and photographer.

eglected game birds

Rails are probably the most neglected game birds in Louisiana, the only exception being gallinules which are so rarely hunted that they can hardly be classified as game birds of any marked significance in the state.

It is a somewhat different story with rails. They are hunted to a degree by some dedicated sportsmen who discovered for themselves that these are fine game birds and offer good wing shooting when they can be made to flush.

Others are collected by duck hunters who encounter them on the way to or from their blinds. This calls for snap shooting because unless the rail flushes and flies it will virtually melt into the foliage and disappear from sight.

Louisiana has a relatively long season on rails. It opened October 31 and will extend through January 8. The daily bag limit on King and Clapper rails is 15, with a possession limit of 30. The bag and possession limit can be made up of any aggregate of the two species.

The daily bag and possession limit on Sora and Virginia rails is 25. These are much smaller birds and are rarely taken by hunters.

Rails are to be found in nearly every marsh area, large and small, throughout a large expanse of Louisiana. Noisy at times, their clacking and piping notes are familiar to all who hunt, fish or travel through the marshes and bayous of the coastal parishes or who have occasion to visit the low, semi-flooded rice fields. This is particularly true in the early mornings and late afternoons, but usually those traveling by boat get only a fleeting glimpse of occasional



rails near the shoreline. These game birds are residents of the wet grasslands. In the thickest of such growth they are at home, moving between the stems of such vegetation without any movement of the grass that would disclose their presence. It is said that it was from these birds that the expression "thin as a rail" originated. Nature has endowed these birds with the ability to compress their bodies laterally which enables them to move undetected in even the densest of grass and roseau canes.

Rail hunting in Louisiana is vastly different than it is on the Atlantic Seaboard where the birds are more eagerly sought by hunters. This is easy to explain. Normal tides in marshes bordering the Atlantic rise as much as two or three feet daily. This allows hunters to pole into the grassy marshland at high tide and get excellent gunning, leaving the grassy flats when the tide starts to fall.

This is not the case in Louisiana where normal tides are never high enough to float a boat over the coastal marshes. Consequently the best shooting is in the short grass, hard-bottom salt marsh country such as is found on most of the islands near the gulf's shore. Such terrain is the favorite habitat of the Clapper rail.

This is one of the two largest rails and one that is sought by most of the hunters who take time out to hunt rails. The Clapper rail, so called from his rattling calls, is truly a bird of the salt marshes. In hunting Clapper rails good dogs are a must. Labradors and Golden

retrievers work well on rails, as do some breeds of Spaniels and pointing dogs. The latter are useful in trailing running rails, provided they work close to the guns.

Rails are not prone to flush and will trust to their legs and ability to hide until they are literally forced to flush. Then they rise awkwardly and apparently slowly. Once airborne, they offer good wing shooting. Slow starts, fast flight and erratic flopping back into the marsh grasses makes for good sport.

King rails are handsome big birds, brownish with a breast plumage of russet brown. They arrive in Louisiana late in October or early November from the northern states. They have a marked preference for fresh water marshes and the rice fields toward the western part of the state. Some are said to be year around residents in the western parishes.

Other rails migrating to Louisiana are the Virginia, a true miniature of the big King rail; and the Sora. Neither has attracted much attention from sportsmen because they are small birds and very few hunters can identify them. Several other members of the rail family are seen in Louisiana but these, too, are almost mouselike in their size and habits. They are rarely seen.

With so many other forms of game available to Louisiana hunters, it is somewhat understandable that rails are neglected; or only hunted on occasion. Yet, they are fine game birds. They are available in good numbers and hunters could add to their general sport by helping to take them off the "neglected list".





Dr. Robert M. Brocato and young Roger W. Wilson, Jr. with a fine limit of ducks on opening day.



hunting in louisiana

Louisiana's automobile license plate carries the slogan, SPORTSMEN'S PARADISE and it makes sense. The state is a hunter's paradise. This is true for fishermen, campers, bird watchers, boaters, and particularly so for hunters. Diverse land terrain that varies from rolling hills to swamps, from the Gulf of Mexico to the hardwood bottom lands, to the country's greatest marshes, offers habitat suited for many forms of wildlife. The hunting season, whether open for months or just a few days, is long. In September there is dove shooting, but hunting and game laws are strict. In the spring, deer season begins. Game comes shrouded and rabbit hunting and the country's longest archery season primarily for white-tailed deer.

Louisiana offers the country's longest duck hunting and virtually all of the waterfowl season. The state has a large population of snipe and the majority of the country's woodcock spend the winter in Louisiana while the season is open. There is quail hunting with birds migrating about and more deer are harvested each year than in any other state. The annual bag of deer is well over 50,000.

Add to all this a wild turkey season in the spring, with additional areas in the state being stocked and gradually being opened to hunting, and you have one of the most diverse hunting areas in the country. The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission manages a total of 33 Wildlife Management Areas, and the Patte-A-Louin Waterfowl Management Area. The acreage involved in these areas is approximately 850,000 acres, and the lands are either owned by the state or are leased to the state. The areas are used for hunting, fishing, bird watching and other forms of outdoor recreation.

In addition, there are five state wildlife refuges totaling 175,000 acres. These areas are primarily managed for waterfowl and play important roles in helping to attract a wintering population of six million ducks to the Louisiana coast each year.



